



ODP Younger Age Groups Philosophy Statement 2009-2010 96-97 Age Groups

Our philosophy concerning the 1996 and 1997 birth date players is to try to give them as positive experience as possible. We try to keep as many players as possible but due to events for the 1996 and 1997 age group we do have to make some sort of selection. In no way at this age should players go away from trials thinking they are not good players if they are not selected or are great players if they are selected. The FYSA State Staff coaches are charged with selecting the players based upon their professional opinions as to where the players stand at the trials and where they project them down the road. This makes these trials particularly difficult. We try to make this as positive of a process as possible. The players are encouraged to ask questions of the coaches not only during, but also after the trials are completed.

For most of the players this is their first experience in the Olympic Development Program. It is a very stressful time for them. They are playing with and against players who they may or may not have ever seen. Some do better in this process than others. The player's selection is based on what they do this particular weekend. Through our scouting program we try to pick up those players who for one reason or another have a bad weekend and are deserving of a shot. Some players do show better with their own teams. The players who do the best with this process are the ones who are supported by the parents whether they make it or not. Whether a player makes it or not does not say they will become a good player or not, it simply says that at this trial this is the opinion of the FYSA staff coaches making the selections that weekend.

The trials for the 1996 and 1997 birth dates for boys and girls will be held in the fall. They are a two-day trial where the players will train and play small-sided games on Saturday and play larger sided games on Sunday. Player will be identified for the January Supercenters. The number of players identified at the trials will vary from trial to trial. Players will be identified based upon their level in the four components of soccer: technique, tactics, psychological and fitness. FYSA ODP does not set a number of players to be identified at each trial, what we are looking for are players that can compete for spots on our state teams or pool. The trial selections will be announced at the conclusion of the trial. Players may also be identified through the US Soccer and FYSA scouting systems that are in place for these age groups.

Training centers are available for all of the players in the 1996 and 1997 age groups who are registered for ODP. These centers are set up to offer training to players with developmentally appropriate training by our nationally licensed FYSA State Staff coaches. The main objective of these centers is to introduce them to the standard of play and areas that should be concentrating on in their particular age groups. Club coaches are welcome to attend the centers to see what we are looking for. These training centers will be held in November and December. More details will be given to each player either at the trial or through email. Players may be identified at the training centers. Although the primary purpose of the centers remains that of training if a player stands out and has not been selected they may be notified at a later date if this in fact happens. The lead coach will know which players have already been identified at each of the centers. Notification of identification at these centers will come from the FYSA state office through the FYSA Director of Coaching.

There are regional competitions for the 1996 and 1997 boys and girls so in these age groups we will be selecting three state teams. The Supercenters will be for those players selected at the region trials, training centers or through the scouting process. These will be held in a North and a South location to allow for a less amount of travel. We will identify a pool of players who will comprise our state pool. This state pool through two training events will then be divided into three or four teams. On the boys side we do select an A team, an older and a younger team. The older group will primarily be made up of players born January 1 to July 15 and the younger age group July 15 to December 31. We do not do this on the girl's side as we do not have the same physical differences. We hold summer developmental camps for all of the 1997 players who are identified for the Supercenters. Non identified players who wish to attend the developmental camp may do so. Other information will be given or emailed to the players depending on the events they qualify for.

We fully recognize that the players become good players though their work and the work of their club coaches. We have also asked for club coaches to help identify players who may have slipped through the cracks through our process. We have a limited budget in terms of looking at players. We cannot cover every club game in this age group at this point but if there are tournaments within the state where your players are playing with other players we need to identify we are going to try and get a staff coach there. Please email me this information to mstrickler@fysa.com and we will do our best.

Our FYSA State Staff is composed of nationally licensed coaches throughout the state of Florida. These coaches do this job on a volunteer basis. The coaches are professional, college, high school, and club coaches. They spend a great deal of time trying to find the best players. The head coaches in each of their age groups want to field the best team possible in order to compete against other teams in the Southeast. In the last two years we have had the most players named to the Region III Pool. This is a credit to the job that they do.